delegation of businessmen visited India in April 2002. Various aspects of bilateral trade were discussed and it is expected that both the countries now have better appreciations of measures required to be taken for increasing bilateral trade.

(e) This is likely to facilitate an enhanced economic and commercial cooperation between the business of two countries for mutual benefit.

Declining trend in export

4266. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export continued to witness a negative growth during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and year-wise;

(c) the reasons for such negative export growth indicating India's share in percentage in the world's total export growth and also increase in India's trade deficit, during the above mentioned years in terms of Dollar and Rupee; and

(d) the specific plan of Government to avoid such trend and ensure that India's share in total world's export reaches one per cent at least?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) As per data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S). Kolkata, India's merchandise exports had registered a growth rate of 19.6% during 2000-01. However, merchandise goods exports have registered a decline of 0.08 in 2001-02 compared to the previous year. This is basically due to the global economic slow down and the impact of events of September 11th and its aftermath. India's share in world exports is 0.67% for the year 2000, as per WTO International Trade Statistics.

Trade deficit for the last two years is as under:

Years	Trade Deficit	
	(US $ Million)	(Rs. Crore)
2000-01	(-) 6078	(-) 27302
2001-02 (April-March) Provisional	(-) 6655	(-) 31467

(SOURCE: DGCI & S, Kolkata)

A medium term export strategy has been announced for the period 2002-07 which aims at achieving 1% of world exports by the year 2006-07. Besides these, Exim Policy for 2002-07 announced recently incorporates a number of measures to pro-actively promote exports which *inter alia* include operationalising Special Economic Zones, reimbursement of admissible expenditure for export of certain agricultural products, development of centres of export excellence, additional support for electronic hardware exports and further reduction in transaction cost.

Flower auction centre in Bangalore

4267. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of enormous potential to grow flowers in and around Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to develop international Flower Auction Centre in Bangalore; and

(c) what facilities have been extended by the Central Government to improve floriculture in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) A feasibility report on establishment of Flower Auction Centre at Bangalore was commissioned by Agicultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA). Based on this, Government has approved the proposal for providing financial assistance by APEDA to the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation (KAIC) for setting up of a wholesale market-cum-auction centre for flowers at Bangalore. Further APEDA has also provided cold storage and cargo handling facility at Bangalore Airport.

Export of wheat to Bangladesh

4268. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has exported wheat to Bangladesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, the quantity sold and the price charged;